

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN KEN MESAROS**, on March 30, 1999 at 1:40 P.M., in Room 402 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Ken Mesaros, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Tom A. Beck (R)  
Sen. Al Bishop (R)  
Sen. William Crismore (R)  
Sen. Pete Ekegren (R)  
Sen. Eve Franklin (D)  
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)  
Sen. Jack Wells (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Mike Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Steve Doherty (D)  
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)  
Sen. Chuck Swysgood (R)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch  
Adrienne Pillatzke, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted:  
Executive Action: HB488; HB 533

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 533**

**Motion:** **SEN. MCCARTHY** moved to bring **HB 533** off the table with an amendment.

**Discussion:**

**SENATOR MCCARTHY** explained the proposed amendment. She said it is a sunset provision which would be on page 2, line 26. The sunset would be in 2003. It would give the bill three hunting seasons to see if it brings up any youth licenses.

**Vote:** Motion **carried 10-2 with Swysgood and Wells voting no.**

**Motion:** **SEN. MCCARTHY** moved that **The Proposed Amendment BE ADOPTED.**

**Discussion:**

**SENATOR MCCARTHY** suggested the sunset to be 2003. She will be accept the judgement of the group as the date is concerned. She said 2003 will give three hunting cycles to see if the licenses have increased. She said 2002 might be more appropriate.

**SENATOR CRISMORE** said 2002 is more appropriate because there will five hunting seasons before the legislature can take action on the bill. **SENATOR MCCARTHY** said she would like to change the date to 2002.

**SENATOR MCCARTHY** said the amendment will be to sunset; the bill at 2002. The legislature in 2003 can check the bill. She said it will be up to the Fish and Game to bring it forward to see if they felt it was a worthwhile program.

**SENATOR BECK** asked if they can remove it in 2001 if they want to. **SENATOR MCCARTHY** replied he is correct. They have that privilege.

**Leanne Kurtz** asked if she had a date. **SENATOR MCCARTHY** said they need it before they start selling licenses. We need it in March or April.

**SENATOR BECK** suggested March 1, 2002.

**SENATOR CRISMORE** asked if the Fish, Wildlife and Parks could have the system ready to sell the licenses as soon as this year. **Doug Munger, Fish, Wildlife and Parks,** replied he didn't know. He said he is not involved with the licenses process.

**Leanne Kurtz** said the amendments which were adopted have the bill effective March 1, 2000. **SENATOR BECK** said they are going to put a sunset for March 1, 2002.

**Vote:** Motion **carried unanimously.**

**Motion/Vote:** SEN. MCCARTHY moved that HB 533 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. Motion carried 10-2 with Swysgood and Wells voting no.

*{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 4.2}*

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 488**

**Motion:** SEN. BECK moved TO RECONSIDER THE COMMITTEE'S ACTION ON HB 488.

**Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** SEN. BECK moved that AMENDMENT HB048802.ALK BE ADOPTED.

**Discussion:**

SENATOR BECK entered amendment HB048802.ALK, **EXHIBIT(fis71a01)**. He explained his intentions with the amendment and what the amendment would do.

SENATOR WELLS said there is dangerous precedence being set when they keep talking about the value of recreation on these lands. If they look at what the market would bear and consider out-of-state residents, he can see where it is worth a \$100 a year on the state lands. He said they can keep raising the state lands fee, if they talk about true value in recreation. He does not agree with true value recreation. Constitutionally he feels if they are making a profit off the land then they should have to pay the state. He said game animals and game birds belong to all the citizens of the state, they don't belong to people leasing the land.

SENATOR MCCARTHY asked about the deadline for the bill and when would the bill be on the board. SENATOR BECK said the bill will go on the board tomorrow or even today.

SENATOR MCCARTHY said Senator Beck needs to think about the timing for the bill. SENATOR BECK said the conference committee would not be heard before Easter break. He said the deadline is to get the amendment on a House bill and getting it back to the House. He thinks they have until the 73rd day of legislature.

SENATOR FRANKLIN said she can't bring herself to vote for the language in terms of creating a precedence for recreational value of recreational lands. SENATOR BECK replied if the amendment is adopted then the conference committee will put the bill in its proper perspective.

Vote: Motion carried 8-4 with Doherty, Ellingson, Franklin and Wells voting no.

Motion/Vote: SEN. BECK moved that HB 488 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 1:55 P.M.

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SEN. KEN MESAROS, Chairman

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ADRIENNE PILLATZKE, Secretary

KM/AP

**EXHIBIT (fis71aad)**